

## **REMARKS**

### **STATUS OF CLAIMS**

In response to the Office Action dated November 30, 2007, claim 1 has been amended.

Claims 1, 2 and 4-8 are now pending in this application. No new matter has been added.

The continued indication that claim 8 is allowable is acknowledged and appreciated.

### **REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102 AND § 103**

I. Claims 1, 2 and 4-7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Bosy (USPN 6,394,300).

Claims 1, 2 and 4-7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Babcock et al. (USPN 6,595,605).

Claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Murphy et al. (USPN 6,568,723).

II. To expedite prosecution, independent claim 1 has been amended to recite, *inter alia*:

an opening and closing member that is provided on an apparatus frame and that can be opened and closed, ***the opening and closing member having an opening and closing axis proximate one side of the opening and closing member***; and

at least two lock member sets for sustaining a state in which the opening and closing member is closed with respect to the apparatus frame, wherein each of the at least two lock member sets is constituted by a secured member that is provided on the opening and closing member, and a bearing member that is provided on the apparatus frame and that is to elastically secure the secured member, ***wherein***

***the bearing members of each of the at least two lock member sets are provided on a common side of the apparatus frame,***

an elastic force when the secured member in any one lock member set of the at least two lock member sets is secured to the bearing member is set to be greater than that of the other lock member set,

the at least two lock member sets are provided at *a second* side of the opening and closing member, ***opposed to the first side,***

the at least two lock member sets are arranged so that each lock member set is aligned in a line approximately along a width direction of the opening and closing member,

***in one lock member set, the secured member comprises a through hole portion and the bearing member has a downward convex portion to engage the through hole portion...***

The features now recited in amended independent claim 1 are not disclosed or suggested by Bosy, Babcock et al. or Murphy et al.

More specifically, in Bosy, *inter alia*, lock member set 24, 26 is not provided at a second side of the opening and closing member, opposed to a first side proximate which an opening and closing axis of the opening closing member is provided. In addition the bearing members of each of the at of the at least two lock member sets are **NOT** provided on a common side of the apparatus frame.

In Babcock et al. *inter alia*, in one lock member set, the secured member (required to be on the opening and closing member) does **NOT** comprises a through hole portion and the bearing member (required to be on the apparatus frame) does **NOT** have a downward convex portion to engage the through hole portion.

In Murphy et al., *inter alia*, there is not one lock member set where the secured member (required to be on the opening and closing member) d comprises a through hole portion and the bearing member (required to be on the apparatus frame) has have a downward convex portion to engage the through hole portion. In addition, bearing members of each lock member set are **NOT** provided on a common side of the apparatus frame.

Therefore, amended claim 1 is patentable over Bosy, Babcock et al. and Murphy et al., as are dependent claims 2 and 4-7.

**III.** In view of the above, the allowance of claims 1, 2 and 4-7, as amended, is respectfully solicited.

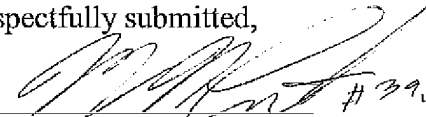
**CONCLUSION**

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Edward J. Wise (Reg. No. 34,523) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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